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PAKISTAN FISHERY OFFICIAL GIVEN MERIT AWARD

Abdul R. K. Zobairi, Superintendent of Fisheries for the Government of East Bengal, Pakistan, has been awarded the Fish and Wildlife Service's Certificate of Merit for fishery training, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

The award was conferred by the Director, John L. Farley, Fish and Wildlife Service on January 18.

Mr. Zobairi began his second year of United States fishery studies in December 1953, and recently completed training at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute where he fulfilled requirements for a doctor of philosophy degree. His course was aquatic biology and fish culture and the doctorate, which will be conferred in June, is the first Ph.D. the Institute has approved for this type of study.

Mr. Zobairi's United States training was part of the Foreign Operations Administration's technical assistance program under which the Fish and Wildlife Service, as a participating agency, plans and supervises fishery training in this country for foreign technicians.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has been active in technical assistance to foreign nations since 1941. During fiscal year 1954, nine countries sent 33 representatives to the United States for training in 11 different branches of fisheries. Seventeen technicians were sent from Cuba, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, and Thailand for fishery technology training; seven were sent from Nationalist China, India, and Pakistan for fishery biology studies; and four were sent from Nationalist China, Iraq, and Thailand to study fish culture. Indonesia and Thailand sent four students for training in fishery administration and statistics; while South Africa sent one trainee for fur-seal management studies. Training periods vary from a few months to a year or more. Emphasis is placed on university courses and tours of fishing-industry centers.

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(NOTE: Glossy prints of the award ceremony may be obtained on a loan basis for reproduction in newspapers and magazines by application to the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.).